

HEALTH
A - 3 OCT 1945
O.R. 25

BOROUGH OF HOVE.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1944.

on the

HEALTH OF THE TOWN.

N. E. CHADWICK, M.A., M.D., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of
the Borough of Hove.

Your Worship, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1944, which, if not entirely fulfilling the hope expressed last year that it would be the last war-time one, did mark the termination of enemy air hostilities against this part of the coast. For the fifth time I must accept the evidence of the incidence of disease both physical and mental, and the results of nutritional surveys both here and in other parts of the country, that there was no widespread deterioration of the community's health. The examination of the school children in Hove for example, showed that 84% were normal, 13% slightly sub-normal, nil bad - figures which compare very favourably with those of the pre-war period. On the other hand we are realising more and more the effect of psychological factors, not only in their effect in producing nervous disorders, but also as an important influence in the causation of physical illnesses, and the whole nation has been under continuous stress and strain for the best part of six years; their morale and will to endure has been raised to and maintained at a high level through the demands of the war effort, but now that the incentive has been removed the consequent relaxation may reveal a plethora of psychological traumas. Many people now find it difficult to relax and the nation is desperately tired - a condition which the few minor alleviations of war-time controls have done little or nothing to alleviate. The people need a holiday, not merely in the accepted pre-war sense, but a freedom from many of the irritating restrictions on personal liberty and an opportunity to gather together the threads of family life once more without, for example, the necessity of standing in queues in order to secure the food to feed them. The two great priorities are Housing and Employment, and besides these Education and even Health could safely be left until the nation has had a breathing space in which to recover its stability and to brace itself for the tasks which lie ahead.

VITAL STATISTICS.

These again reflect, except in the General Death Rate, the improvement shown in previous years. The Birth Rate was 14.15 per 1,000 of the population; Infant Mortality 53.30 per 1,000 births; and the corrected Death Rate 19.83 per 1,000 of the population, which correspond with 17.6, 14.6 and 11.6 for the country as a whole. Unfortunately owing to changes in the distribution of the population it is not possible to give a Comparability figure for the Death Rate which would allow a fair comparison to be made between Hove, with its preponderance of old people, and the other parts of the country, where the age groups are more evenly distributed. The Birth Rate was the highest since 1920 and reflects a similar effect of the 1914-18 War, but as an augury for replacing a diminishing population, it is not without its fallacies. The practice of deliberate limitation of families, once confined to the wealthier classes, has now become universal, but the explanation of this changed attitude towards the family is not simple and many of the reasons given appear to me to be only superficial and do not account for what now appears to be a definite diminution in fertility of our race. Have we concentrated too much on the physical improvement of health and disregarded the psychological lowering of morale which the speeding-up of modern life has produced, so that "Safety First" has become the slogan of the nation instead of "Living Dangerously"? Has the medical profession contributed to this aim by making child-birth too scientific? Whatever may be the explanation it is to my mind obvious that bribery in the shape of family allowances, or explanations of this reluctance to produce children will not redress the balance and maintain our population unless by some other means - physical or spiritual - a changed attitude

towards the development of a family permeates all classes.

There were no deaths from Measles or Whooping Cough, and the increase in those due to Diarrhoea was due to outbreaks in a local hospital. The Neo-natal mortality stood at 24.4 and accounted for 50 per cent of the total infant deaths. Of the 20 deaths under a month, 15 occurred within the first week after birth and any future saving in Infant Life must be attained by research into the causes of these very early deaths.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE SERVICES.

The M. and C.W. Services have as usual maintained their high level of efficiency and popularity. Some 500 babies attended the Centres for the first time and there were 1,700 children up to the age of five who received the benefits of personal consultation at the sessions. The Home Visits of the Health Visitors also increased by 1,500 and in all they saw 8,000 children during the year - a total which takes no account of the many futile visits which war-time conditions necessarily entailed. One section of our responsibility is the selection and supervision of foster mothers, made particularly difficult in war-time by the increased demand for such homes and the entry of women who normally would not have undertaken this work. It is particularly important that these mothers should be closely controlled, in view of the high proportion of illegitimate children who depend on foster-mothers for their upbringing, development and experience of family life. The shortage of suitable homes has involved demands from individual mothers for approval to increase the number they can accept, and all these applications have to be carefully scrutinised in order that the business side may not operate to the detriment of the children. The administration of this section of the Public Health Act is by no means easy and in one particularly glaring case it was only possible after twelve months' negotiations to remove all the children from a completely unsuitable home, and then only by voluntary agreement on the foster mother's part.

MATERNITY SERVICES.

The increased Birth Rate involved an increased demand for Maternity Home accommodation, and in the three Hospitals which serve Hove 446 confinements took place. From a medical angle, confinement in a Hospital involves more potential risk of infection, but greater safety if any emergency or abnormality arises, but whatever may be the scientific opinion, the British mother of all classes has now decided that she wishes to have her baby at a Maternity Hospital or Nursing Home and in our future planning we must pay due regard to this decision. Up to the present we have confined our admissions to those who are abnormal from the physical side, or in whose case the home surroundings are not suitable - the latter condition in war-time having to be stretched to include many cases where accommodation was sufficient, but there was a lack of domestic help. We are now faced with a demand for subsidised maternity services for those who are physically normal and whose home conditions are suitable, but who wish, for reasons largely of convenience, to enter a Maternity Hospital. In considering this claim, one must bear in mind that a period in hospital represents to a working mother the only real holiday she has so long as her family responsibilities remain. In January 1944 the M. & C.W. Committee accepted responsibility for all mothers for whom maternity hospital accommodation was required, either by reason of physical abnormality or because their home surroundings were unsuitable, and this involved the booking of and provision of ante-natal treatment for those electing to enter Southlands Hospital. For the first part of the year this involved an inconvenient journey to the Hospital, but in November, with the assistance of the Board of Management of the Sussex Maternity Hospital, arrangements were made

for/

for an Ante-Natal Clinic to be held on their premises at 9, Portland Road. Not only did this mean a considerable saving in time and trouble for the mothers, but as the member of the Hospital Medical Staff, responsible for the conduct of the actual labour was also in charge of the Ante-natal supervision, complete continuity throughout the whole period of pregnancy was ensured.

One of the difficult problems in war-time is the care of the other members of the family when illness or confinement involves the mother, and the M. & C.W. Committee attempted to meet this emergency by appointing a whole-time Domestic Help who could attend to cases of this nature. Later on, the official scheme sponsored by the Ministry of Health was introduced and two more Helps were appointed. Since the inception of the scheme their time has been fully occupied, usually in attending two cases per day, and undoubtedly they have been the means of alleviating the distress or worries of the households to which they were supplied. Unfortunately it has not been possible, owing to the demand, to allocate them to individual cases for more than a few weeks, and they have not been able to meet the cases of aged and infirm persons who really require permanent help of this nature. All households assisted are assessed to pay a contribution towards the cost of the Domestic Help, but the criterion has always been the urgency and nature of the case and not the ability to pay.

WAR-TIME NURSERY.

I referred in last year's report to the taking over of the Hove Voluntary Day Nursery as a War-time Nursery, and in January 1944 the premises leased from Dr. Barnardo's at 57, Clarendon Villas were ready for occupation by the 2-5 year old group. The complete nursery, therefore, consists of two sections - the Baby Nursery in the old premises at 12, Goldstone Villas, with 25 places, and the Toddlers at 57, Clarendon Villas, with 50 places. Despite the fact that both Measles and Whooping Cough were prevalent in the summer months, the nurseries escaped with very few cases and have run practically to capacity throughout the year with 15,018 attendances. One of the objections to Nurseries in general is the added risk of infection, particularly the Intestinal type - Dysentery, Enteritis - especially among the babies, but this has not been our experience in Hove - a state of affairs which reflects very great credit on the Matron and Staff. It is gratifying to record also that since the War-time Nursery was opened every candidate sitting for the Certificate of the National Society of Childrens' Nurseries has been successful, which speaks well of the training - both theoretical and practical - which the Probationers receive there. The future of these War-time Nurseries is still in the melting-pot, but even with the passing of war-time employment there will, in my opinion, be a place for them in a Welfare Scheme to meet the needs of mothers who will still have to undertake domestic work, or other forms of employment.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Infectious Disease was again generally light in incidence and mild in type. Scarlet Fever accounted for double the number of cases in 1943, and only two cases of suspected Diphtheria were admitted to the Sanatorium. The outbreak of Measles at the end of 1943 continued in 1944, and Whooping Cough was prevalent during that summer.

Sanatorium.

The total admissions were higher than in the previous year and included a considerable proportion of Service cases suffering from the minor infections. Staffing difficulties - both nursing and domestic - made the task of maintaining the high standard which the Hospital has always set, particularly difficult, and if it had not been for the whole-hearted co-operation of those old-

old-time members of the staff and their willingness to undertake duties which did not properly belong to them, the work could not have gone on. At the time of the introduction of the Rushcliffe Scale for nurses and the Hetherington for domestic workers, it was thought in some quarters that staffing difficulties would be solved, but this optimistic forecast has not been realised. In all branches of women's work there is a prejudice against resident posts and the Committee responsible for settling the rates of pay for the two classes did not take this sufficiently into account. To attract girls to take up these resident posts it is necessary to make the wages and salaries even more attractive than non-resident ones, in order to compensate for the different conditions and the varying hours of duty. Recruits to the nursing profession will not be secured by payment of a cash salary which amounts to little more than pocket money spread over a period of three or possibly four years.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

During the year a further 379 children under the age of 5 and 146 over this age were immunised. It is not possible to devote the same amount of time every year to propaganda, and our main efforts were concentrated on ensuring that every baby of 12 months or over attending the Welfare Centre for the first time, was immunised, and at the same time, keeping up the immunity of the older children by arranging for an additional injection at five year intervals. No cases of Diphtheria were notified and neither of the two cases admitted to the Sanatorium under that diagnosis, was confirmed after subsequent investigation. It is particularly difficult this year to give even an approximate estimate of the percentage of the total child population who at one time or another have been immunised, owing to changes in the population and the impossibility of securing complete records from the general practitioners who have treated children in their private practice, but I should estimate that of the children who come under our supervision, either as a Welfare or an Education Authority, some 80-85% have been immunised.

Tuberculosis.

There was a small decrease in the number of cases notified - both Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary - which is in accord with the trend throughout the country. Mortality and not notification, which is subject to numerous errors, is, however, the true index of incidence and there was a diminution in the deaths from 23 to 19. Discussions were held with the County Council during that year on the subject of accommodation for the chronic case, but although several houses were surveyed nothing fruitful resulted. The White Paper on the National Health Service envisaged administration of Tuberculosis Services in larger areas than individual counties and county boroughs, and authorities generally are waiting to see the result of present negotiations on the new framework, before committing themselves to large extension schemes. Further efforts were also made to induce the Ministry of Health to widen the scope of their Tuberculosis Special Allowances to include the chronic and the Non-Pulmonary case, but without success, and up to the present the granting of these allowances has involved in most cases a conflict between the heart and the conscience of the Tuberculosis Officer.

THE WHITE PAPER ON NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE.

The views which I expressed in last year's report on the proposals as they affected Non-County Boroughs were vigorously pursued both with the Association of Municipal Corporations and local M.P's, but although it is common knowledge that prolonged negotiations between the Minister of Health and the various interested bodies took place, which would have involved substantial alterations in the original scheme, it seems that now, with a change of Government, a fresh start will have to be made.

CIVIL DEFENCE.

The last bomb fell in Hove at Whitsun of 1944, and during the period of the flying bombs none came down in the area. There was, in consequence, a further cut in the whole-time personnel to such a degree that any kind of organisation would have been impossible without the co-operation of the old part-timers, many of whom had been in the Service from the commencement and wanted to see the war through. To all the personnel of the Casualty Services, both whole and part-time, the town owes a deep debt of gratitude, not only for their steadfastness in action, but for their patient endurance of long periods of standing-by.

WORK OF THE SANITARY DEPARTMENT.

The summary of the work of the Sanitary Inspectors shows once again that a great deal of attention has been paid to the task of improving or, at any rate, preventing further deterioration in houses within the limits enforced by the shortage of both labour and materials. In addition, they carried out a very extensive survey of housing accommodation within the Borough, involving an inspection of nearly 3,000 dwellings. Shops, particularly those dealing with perishable foods, also were closely supervised. A whole-time Rodent Operator took up his duties at the beginning of the year and householders were encouraged to report the presence of rats. He paid over 2,000 visits to premises of various kinds and caught over 1,000 rats and mice.

The usual number of samples of milk were taken for bacteriological examination and the results on the whole were satisfactory. No further progress appears to have been made in this or any other area, in the proposal (contained in a White Paper in 1942) for prescribing heat treatment to all grades of milk except Certified, Tuberculin Tested and Accredited from a single herd.

HOUSING.

With the end of the war in sight during the year, the problem of new houses occupied the attention of both the Public Health and the housing Committees, and in November I presented a comprehensive report on the subject in which I enumerated three areas in the town which "are ill-adapted to their present uses and should, when opportunity arises, be done away with and replaced by dwellings of a more modern design and with a better lay-out of streets and open spaces". At the same time I attempted to form some estimate of the minimum number of houses which the Council should plan for during the first two years after the conclusion of the war, by an analysis of the number of families living in basements and other unsuitable accommodation, by the number of applicants on the waiting list for Council House vacancies and by some kind of forecast of the number of Service men who had married and would expect to be able to set up a home for themselves after their demobilisation. From all this evidence, much of which was very speculative and to some extent fallacious, I advised that the Council's minimum programme should aim at the erection of 300 houses of a three-bedroom type during the period in question - some 50 on the Knoll Estate and the remainder as the first instalment on a new site. This figure was accepted by the Housing Committee, but subsequently amended by the General Purposes Committee to 450 in the same period.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION.

So closes my report on what, from the Public Health point of view, proved to be a most difficult year - organisations such as Civil Defence laboriously built up over five years were in a process of disintegration, but still had to be maintained in a skeleton form and new schemes of progress for the future had to be examined and laid aside temporarily, because of either lack of direction from above or dearth of working materials on the spot.

So/

So far as the Staff of my Department are concerned, I can only say how deeply conscious I am of the debt which I owe to all of them, and while it is always invidious to single out individuals, I should like to mention particularly Dr.Hewitt and Dr.McEwan, the two Assistant Medical Officers of Health, Mr.Rickett, the Chief Clerk, Mr.Churcher, the Chief Sanitary Inspector, and the Matrons of the Sanatorium and the War-time Nursery, all of whom, in their respective offices, relieved me of many worries in connection with the day-to-day routine. Finally I am, as always, greatly indebted to the Chairman and Members of the various Committees I serve, who have once again given me their whole-hearted support and encouragement.

I remain,

Your obedient Servant,

N. E. CHADWICK. M.D.

Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Department,
HOVE.

19th September 1945.

TOTAL	379
-------	-----

NURSING HOMES.

The number of Nursing Homes on the register at the end of the year was 39. During the year 3 were discontinued and 2 new homes were registered.

MATERNITY & CHILD WELFARE.

Infant deaths 1944.

These totalled 38 and were made up as follows :-

Premature births.	13
Gastro-enteritis.	11
Misadventure.	4
Miscellaneous	10

Deaths under one month totalled 20 and represented 52.6 per cent.

Midwives.

The Inspector of Midwives, who was the Senior Health Visitor, made 6 visits of inspection, received 66 notices of sending for medical help (59 in respect of the Mother, and 7 in respect of the Infant).

Puerperal Pyrexia.

No cases of Puerperal Pyrexia were notified during the year.

Maternity Hospitals.

Normal Cases :-

Portland Road Branch, Sussex Maternity	
Hospital.	73 admitted.
Buckingham Road Branch do.	185 "
Southlands Hospital.	99 "
	<u>357</u>

Abnormal Cases :-

Buckingham Road Branch	62 admitted
Southlands Hospital	82 "
	<u>144</u>

WELFARE CENTRES

Health Visiting.

The Council employed 4 Officers on Health Visiting at the end of the year. The number of visits paid by Health Visitors during the year was :-

Expectant Mothers	First Visits	62
	Total Visits	131
Children under 1 year of age.	First Visits	649
	Total Visits	2878
Children between the ages of 1 and 5 years.	Total Visits	4442.

Infant Welfare Centres.

The Council provided and maintained 2 centres during the year.

Summary of attendances at the Centres.

	<u>Clarendon Villas.</u>	<u>Godwin Road.</u>	<u>Total</u>
Total number of first attendances during the year			
(a) Under 1 year	355	142	497.
(b) Over 1 year	56	82	138
Individual children attending	1044	676	1720

HOVE WAR-TIME NURSERY

Number of attendances during the year 15,018

VACCINATION

238 infants were vaccinated during the year and the total number of vaccinations carried out was 462.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Notifiable cases in the year 1944.

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Total cases notified.</u>	<u>Total Deaths</u>
Diphtheria	-	-
Scarlet Fever	94	-
Pneumonia	35	21
Erysipelas	21	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	3	-
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	3	-
Measles	197	-
Whooping Cough	94	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	3	-
Chicken Pox	1	-
Dysentery	12	-
Mumps	1	-
Rubella	4	-
Anterior Polio Myelitis	2	-
Malaria	1	-

ISOLATION HOSPITAL

<u>Admissions.</u>	<u>Hove</u>	<u>Outside</u>	<u>Total</u>
Scarlet Fever	52	38	90
Diphtheria	2	6	8
Measles	6	23	29
Erysipelas	5	4	9
Mumps	1	13	14
Chicken Pox	2	20	22
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	1	-	1
Rubella	3	52	55
Dysentery	-	6	6
Whooping Cough	5	1	6
Otitis	1	-	1
Anterior Polio Myelitis	-	1	1
Strep. Throat	1	1	2
	79	165	244

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

The following table gives details of cases immunised against Diphtheria :-

Under 5 years 1613 54% of population under 5 years.
Over 5 years 3451 66% of population between 5 and 15 years.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM

Three cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum were notified during the year.

Continued Overleaf.

TUBERCULOSIS

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1944.										CASES ON THE REGISTER.					
Age at time of Notific- ation.	NEW CASES				DEATHS				MALES		FEMALES		TOTAL		
	Pul.		Non-Pul		Pul		Non-Pul.								
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	Pul.	Non-Pul.	Pul.	Non-Pul.			
Under 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
1-5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
5-10	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	4	9	7	18		
10-15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	15	4	28		
15-20	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	9	12	4	-	8		
20-25	3	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	17	6	4	25		
25-35	4	6	1	1	1	1	-	-	12	21	5	7	39		
35-45	4	4	-	2	3	3	-	-	22	25	6	11	55		
45-65	9	5	-	1	-	2	-	-	16	22	2	6	58		
Over 65	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	1	66		
	25	22	2	10	10	8	-	1	100	104	48	49	301		

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT

Annual statement of the Sanitary Inspectors
for the Year 1944.

TOTAL number of houses inspected (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	432
TOTAL number of Revisits	743
TOTAL Number of Inspections made for the purpose ..	482
Number of Houses inspected under the PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.	432
" Inspections made for the purpose	482
" Revisits	743
" Houses inspected found satisfactory	149
" Houses inspected found with defects	283
" Informal notices served	265
" Statutory Notices served	17
Number of premises inspected (other than houses) from complaints of Nuisances etc	43
" Inspections made for the purpose	49

FOOD RETAILERS PREMISES

Number of Shops inspected in respect of Meat	231
" Bakehouse Inspections	42
" Preserved Food premises inspected	25
" Fish " "	48
" Grocery, Provisions etc. 	93
" Cafes, Restaurants, Kitchens etc. 	55
" Other Shops	28

SHOPS ACT 1934.

Number of Shops inspected	148
-----------------------------------	-----

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT.

Number of Visits by Ratcatcher in respect of Rats.	2,046
" " Rats caught.	981
" " Mice " 	228

HOUSING SURVEY.

Number of Dwellings inspected	2932
" " Visits made for the purpose	3033

VERMIN (BUGS)

Number of Visits made regarding verminous premises ..	159
" " " for disinfection of Rooms	89
" " Rooms treated for Vermin	92

SAMPLES TAKEN 1944.

Tuberculin Tested (Certified) Milk	24.
Tuberculin Tested Milk	69.
Pasteurised Milk.	37.
Ministry of Health Samples.	10.

Samples not complying with the prescribed conditions :-

FAILED.

	B. Coli,	Methylene Blue	Failed Both Tests.
Tuberculin Tested (Cert) 5.	4	-	1
Tuberculin Tested 8.	4	2	2
Pasteurised Milk 4.	-	-	1
Ministry of Health 1.	-	1	-
Samples.			

PHOSPHATASE TEST

No. of samples of Pasteurised Milk satisfying test	35.
" " " " " " not " "	2.

FOOD & DRUGS ACT, 1938.

Milk.	24 Formal.	Adulterated NIL.
Butter.	4 "	
Lard	4 "	
Pork Sausages	9 "	
Vinegar	4 "	
Margarine	2 "	
Bi-Carbonate of Soda	1 Informal.	
Aspirin Tablets.	2 "	
Almond Flavouring	1 "	
Vanilla Flavouring	2 "	
Lemon Flavouring	2 "	
Castor Oil	1 "	
Camphorated Oil	1 "	
Orange Flavouring	1 "	
Cherry Flavouring	1 "	
Ground Ginger	1 "	
Baking Powder	4 "	

